LEC-FBC-25FA-Reading Responsibly in Translation-WK03-Wisdom Walking with Us and Roadblocks-STUDENT

Primary Text

"CHAPTER 2: ROADBLOCKS IN WISDOM'S WAYS" Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, *Wisdom Ways: Introducing Feminist Biblical Interpretation*

INTRODUCTION

WISDOM 10:17 (WISDOM LED THE SAINTS)

To the saints she gave the wages of their labors;
She led them by a marvelous road,
She Herself was their shelter by day
And their starlight through the night.

TEN ROADBLOCKS ON WISDOM'S PATH

1. The F-Word "Feminism"
2. "Feminist Interpretation is Just for Wo/men"[1]
3. "All Feminists Are Alike"
4. "The Bible and Religion Are Anti-Wo/men"
5. "Biblical Interpretation is Scholars' Domain"
6. "We Know What the Bible Is"
7. "The Bible is the Direct Word of God"
8. Texts Have a Single, Definite Meaning"
9. Malestream and Feminist Hermeneutics Are the Same"
10. The Emotional Toll and the Need for being Trauma-Informed

FEMINISM - EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING

1. What have you heard about the f-word, *feminism*?
2. Does does that compare with the versions sketched out in our handout RESEARCH-Types of Feminism?
3. Which ones reasonate with you the most? How do your experiences the religion, the bible, and the world inform that?
4. If you were to learn about another, which would it be and why?

WALKING WITH THECLA AND MARY MAGDALENE

- Read

- Jesus appears to Mary of Magdala in Mark and John.
- Outline of the Acts of Thekla (PDF).

QUESTIONS FOR WALKING WITH THECLA

1. Imagine meeting Thecla on way to Wisdom's open house. What would you say? How might she respond?
2. What would she say about wo/men in early Christian movements?
3. If Thekla could talk to Mary of Magdala, what would she ask?

QUESTIONS FOR WALKING WITH MARY MAGDALENE (WORKSHEET 3)

Imagine you are walking with Mary of Magdala after she spoke with the risen Jesus (the first human to do so) and before she proclaimed The Resurection (the first human to do so). You plan to write to your *friend* Thekla about the encounter.

1. Mary wondered "who will remove the stone" at tomb. How would you approach asking about this anxiety?
2. What is your first impression of Mary? What does she look like?
3. What did she tell you about her standing in the Jesus movement? Did she talk about her friendship with Peter?
4. What do you want to highlight in your letter to Thekla?
5. Step back to today:
    1. What roadblocks aren't roadblocks for you? Is there a way you can help others with them? Are there opportunities to remove obstacles to other people's freedom?
    2. What obstacles do you see ahead in your search for wisdom/Wisdom and well-being? How will you deal with them? What stops you from dealing with them now?

CLOSING

WISDOM 11:2-4 (PROMISE OF ACCOMPANIMENT)

They journeyed through an unpopulated wilderness
And pitched their tents in inaccessible places.
They stood firm against their enemies, fought off their foes.
On you they called when they were thirsty,
And from the rocky cliff water was given them
From hard stone their thirst was quenched.

FOOTNOTES

1. Schüssler Fiorenza uses **wo/men** to make visible that women are not unitary category and to invite men to "think twice" about whether they're included—reversing usual androcentric practice where masculine terms supposedly include women. ↩